

House Resolution 1780

By: Representatives Ashe of the 56th, Levitas of the 82nd, Henson of the 87th, Porter of the 143rd, and Jacobs of the 80th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mr. Ralph Knowles on receiving the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from
2 the Anti-Defamation League; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Ralph Knowles has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for
4 the vital role that he has played in the legal community and his deep personal commitment
5 to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, a partner with Doffermyre Shields Canfield & Knowles, LLC, Mr. Knowles
7 was honored by the Anti-Defamation League with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his
8 career-long dedication to representing prisoners, mental health patients, and others in
9 securing their constitutional rights; and

10 WHEREAS, the Anti-Defamation League has a 97 year history of fighting discrimination
11 and prejudice in the United States and abroad, actively participating in some of this nation's
12 most significant civil rights and religious freedom court cases, filing amicus briefs, and
13 raising public awareness about the consequences of court decisions; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Knowles earned a bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of
15 Alabama and is actively involved in numerous legal organizations, including as a member
16 of the American Law Institute, a Master of the Bleckley Inn of Courts, and a Fellow of the
17 American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Knowles's leadership and guidance have been instrumental as past president
19 of the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association and as a member of the Board of Directors of
20 Legal Momentum and the national Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, he has served as a staff attorney with the Selma Inter-Religious Project,
23 associate director of the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, and
24 a partner with Drake, Knowles & Pierce in Alabama; and

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26 WHEREAS, a compassionate and gifted attorney, Mr. Knowles has received the highest
27 honors from the Civil Liberties Union of Alabama and the Alabama Criminal Defense
28 Lawyers' Association; and

29 WHEREAS, his colleagues know him as a clear thinker and hard worker, as a man whose
30 strong convictions are supported by meticulous research and careful consideration, and as
31 a leader who is devoted to fighting for religious and civil freedoms; and

32 WHEREAS, the passionate dedication of this distinguished gentleman serves as a shining
33 example of advocacy, and the unwavering championing for the rights of others demonstrated
34 by Mr. Knowles is worthy of recognition.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body commend Mr. Ralph Knowles on his amazing legal career, extend
37 to him their most sincere gratitude for his decades of efficient, effective, unselfish, and
38 dedicated service, and congratulate him upon his most recent honor of a Lifetime
39 Achievement Award from the Anti-Defamation League.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Ralph Knowles.